A Celebration of the Holy Ordinance
of

Christian Baptism

"...into the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" –Matt. 28:19

Valley Grace Brethren Church of Armagh, PA
August 24, AD 2025

The Lord's Day

The Twenty-fourth Day of August, *in the Year of our Lord* 2025

- One - Is - Your - Master - and - All - Ye - Are - Brethren -

Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!

Sunday School—9:30 AM.

Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship:* *"Glory be to the Father"* (#559).

Invocation.*

Hymn: "On Jordan's Stormy Banks" (#511)."

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:36-47.

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Hymn of Preparation for Baptism: *"Holy, Holy, Holy"* (#55).
[Dismissal of Candidates for Preparation]

2nd Scriptural Reading: Matt. 28:16-20.

Pastoral Homily: *"Reflections upon an Ancient Statement of Faith, Baptism, and the path to Discipleship."*

The Trine Immersion in water of the following Candidates:
Jim & Yevette Beach **Mickey Harris**

A. Mack, 1708

Hymn: *"Shall we Gather at the River?"* (#510)

Presentation of New Members.

Prayer: Pastor.

Doxology: *"Father, I Adore You"* (Back page of your bulletin).

Benediction: Pastor

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen. (Gloria Patri)

Week of Aug. 17 – Aug. 23

Sunday School—4; Morning Worship—10;
Midweek—7; Weekly Offering—$202.00

No Midweek Prayer & Bible Study this week:
Prayer Service resumes 9/11 at 6:30PM.

No Sunday School next week (8/31), or on 9/7
Sunday School resumes 9/14 at 9:30 AM.

Pastor's Emergency Cell: (814) 254-6734

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: **David Zambuto**, a long-time Practorium Student from the North Buffalo Grace Brethren Church of Kittanning, PA will be filling in on Sunday, **August 31st**. Please encourage this brother with your attentive support!

GIDEON SUNDAY: **Mr. Dennis Smith** from the Gideons International will be sharing on **September 7th** what God is currently doing throughout the world in that great ministry.

AFRICA UPDATE: PASTOR KEITH MERRIMAN

Dear beloved brethren,

Salomon and Mary are in Chicago waiting to board their plane. The flight has been delayed and they do not have much time to make their connection in Brussels. Please pray they will make their next flight home on time. Also pray they will get some rest when they arrive home.

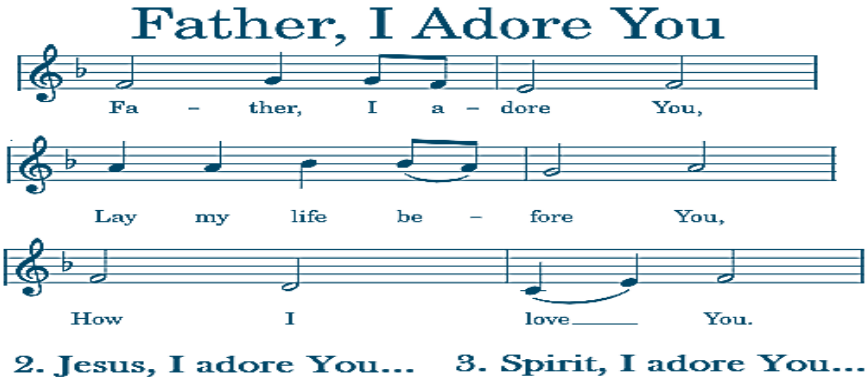
Thanks for all your gifts and prayers while they have been here this past 10 weeks. God bless, Keith (8/19/25)

PS: Next medical outreach in Cameroon will be Aug 25-28; please pray for many to be saved!

Reflections upon the Meaning of Baptism

"In Matt 28:18–20 baptism is a vital part of the discipleship process. Thus, it not only points back as a testimony of salvation, but it also points ahead to the path of discipleship to which the believer is committing himself."—***Dr. David Plaster***

"This statement [i.e., the Trinitarian formula of Matt. 28:19]

directly associated Himself [the Son] and the Holy Spirit on an equality with God the Heavenly Father. To the Jews whom they would be seeking to win it would be a red flag inviting rejection. But apparently Jesus considered it important. In effect He was saying, 'Don't soft-pedal the message of who I am, and what I have revealed to you about the triune nature of the One True God. Rather, make the initiatory rite of identification with Me a clear symbolic testimony to the truth about the Trinity.'"

"The symbolism seems clear: Christian Baptism, by the very way it was done, would picture the work of the Triune God in salvation, in dealing with the sin problem. It doesn't spell out the precise work of Each. It doesn't need to; Christian doctrine and Bible study will do that. But it brilliantly pictures one important distinctive—it is the work of the One-who-is-Three. That indelibly marks it as Christian Baptism. The mode is part of the picture, and without that element in the picture the picture is flawed."—***Dr. James Boyer***